

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 04030 151800Z
ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-11 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 OIC-02
/159 W

-----122395 151811Z /47

P 151747Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7244
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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USMTN USEEC

STR FOR ACTION FOR MATTHEISEN
STR PASS CODEL

E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, JA EC
SUBJECT: MARCH 13 7-PLUS-7 MEETING ON SAFEGUARDS

REF: GENEVA 3381

1. SAFEGUARDS 7-PLUS-7 MEETING, MARCH 13, THOUGH
SHORT ON SUBSTANCE DID PROVIDE SOME TACTICALLY INTER-
ESTING DEBATE ON SELECTIVITY, AS FULL COMPLEMENT OF
EC MEMBER STATE REPS LOOKED ON. MEETING COVERED FIRST
TWO TOPICS (GENERAL OBJECTIVES, INJURY DEFINITION) OF
AGENDA PROPOSED EARLIER BY BRAZIL (REFTEL) BUT DIS-
CUSSIONS TURNED INVARIABLY TO SELECTIVITY--A SUBJECT
EC (ABBOTT) SAID IT COULD DISCUSS UNDER EACH AGENDA
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 04030 151800Z

TOPIC, AND DID.

2. MAINLY, DELS RECOUNTED NOW-FAMILIAR POSITIONS ON
SELECTIVITY; EC AND NORDICS ARGUED EQUITIES OF
EXEMPTING NON-INJURIOUS IMPORTS FROM SAFEGUARD
MEASURE WHILE LDCS, LED BY BRAZIL, PAKISTAN, AND
HONG KONG, CHARGED REPEATEDLY THAT TARGET OF SELECTIVE

ACTION WOULD BE LOW COST EXPORTERS WHO LACK ECONOMIC MUSCLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. HONG KONG (TSAO) PRESSED POINT THAT RELEVANT CONSIDERATION IS IMPORT LEVEL, NOT SOURCE, AND NOTED DIFFICULTY OF DISTINGUISHING AMONG SUPPLIERS WHEN PRODUCT FROM EACH IS IDENTICAL. IT SAID FURTHER THAT NEW EC POSITION ON ARTICLE XIX IS INCONSISTENT WITH THAT TAKEN IN BILATERAL MFA NEGOTIATIONS WHERE CONCERN WAS CUMULATIVE IMPACT OF IMPORTS FROM ALL SOURCES. U.S. COMMENTED THAT EVEN IN CASE OF "IDENTICAL" PRODUCTS, VERY RAPID GROWTH OF IMPORTS FROM PARTICULAR SOURCES COULD BE A PROBLEM; EVEN MORE DIFFICULT PROBLEM, HOWEVER, WAS WHAT TO DO ABOUT SUCH SITUATIONS IN A WAY THAT DEALT FAIRLY WITH BOTH IMPORTER AND EXPORTER INTERESTS--WHICH WOULD BE GROUND FROM WHICH WE WOULD BE APPROACHING SELECTIVITY DEBATE.

3. BRAZIL, JAPAN, AND NORDICS EACH MADE A PITCH FOR INDICATIVE CHECK LIST OF INJURY FACTORS WHICH EC AGAIN SAID IT WAS PREPARED TO CONSIDER, ALONG WITH REFINEMENTS OF IMPORT CAUSALITY LANGUAGE, THOUGH STILL WARY OF OVER-CODIFICATION. WE SAID OUR DOUBTS PERSISTED ON CHECK LIST, AND WHILE WE HAVEN'T RULED IT OUT, WE WOULD NEED SOME ASSURANCE, VIA GUIDELINES ON DOMESTIC PROCEDURES, THAT IT WOULD BE RELEVANT TO DECISIONS WHEN ACTUALLY MADE AS WELL AS IN SUBSEQUENT INTERNATIONAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 04030 151800Z

INSPECTION OF CASES.

4. COMMENT: WE PURPOSELY KEPT OUT OF CROSSFIRE IN COURSE OF SELECTIVITY DEBATE LEAVING EC AND LDCS FREE TO PLAY OUT SCENE THEMSELVES. TO SOME EXTENT, COMMISSION'S PERSISTENCE ON SELECTIVITY (AS WELL AS LDC RESPONSE) WAS DUE TO PRESENCE OF LARGE MEMBER-STATE CONTINGENT, FOR WHOSE BENEFIT BOTH THE DEPTH OF ABBOTT'S FIDELITY AND THE MEASURE OF LDC OPPOSITION WERE CONFIRMED. END COMMENT.

5. BALANCE OF AGENDA TOPICS TO BE TAKEN UP AT CONTINUATION OF 7-PLUS-7 ON MARCH 16, WHICH WE EXPECT WILL CARRY FORWARD SAME THEMES HEARD YESTERDAY. DRAFTED BY ADDUCI MCDONALD

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